

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 25-30 and 32-40 are withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b). The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claim 31 and for allowing claims 2-24 if claims 2-24 were rewritten not to be dependent on any rejected subject matter. Claim 1 is rejected by this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claim 1 is rejected by the Office Action under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,972 (Hartlaub) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,678,937 (Cole). The Applicant has cancelled claim 1 without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

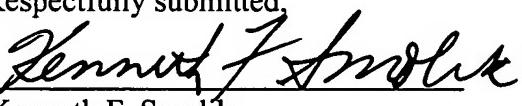
Claims 2-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended claims 2-24 so that claims 2-24 do not depend upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 31 is allowed.

CONCLUSION

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should it be deemed necessary to facilitate prosecution of the application.

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Respectfully submitted,
By: 
Kenneth F. Smolik
Registration No. 44,344
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 South Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Direct Line: 312-463-5419
Facsimile: 312-463-5001